

# MISSOURI MONTHLY VITAL STATISTICS

## *Provisional Statistics*

From The

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### **Focus...Teen Pregnancies in Missouri**

Even with an increasing number of teenagers among Missouri females, both the number and the rate of teenage pregnancy are decreasing. For this review, teen pregnancies are defined as the sum of live births, fetal deaths and induced abortions. Spontaneous abortion data are not available. Rates used in this report are based on the population of females in a specific age group and are expressed per 1,000 females. Table 1 displays the numbers behind these opposing trends for 1991 through 2001 by age subgroup.

As explained in an earlier report,<sup>1</sup> teen pregnancies and the pregnancy rate decreased during the early and mid-1980s, then increased from 1988 until 1991. Another report<sup>2</sup> described the decline in teen pregnancy and pregnancy rates for 1991 through 1998. Figure 1 illustrates the downward trends in abortion, live birth, and pregnancy rates for females age 15-19 from 1991 to 2001.

Nationally, the latest data on teen pregnancy rates is from 1997. At that time pregnancy rates among females 15-19 were about 80 percent higher than the birth rate.<sup>3</sup> In 1997 the pregnancy rate in Missouri among females 15-19 was only about 25% higher than the birth rate. By 2001, the pregnancy rate was only 18% higher. The relationship between teen pregnancy rates and teen birth rates is much closer in Missouri than for the nation because of the relatively low teen abortion rate (only 12.8 in 1997 and 10.1 in 2001). Abortion rates declined over 53 percent from 1991-2001

among Missouri teens 15-19. Currently, over 80 percent of all teen pregnancies in Missouri result in live births.

In 2002, Ventura et al.<sup>4</sup> reported that the birth rate for U. S. teenagers 15-17 years decreased 29.2 percent from 1991 – 2000 (2000 is the most current national data available) and the rate for teenagers 18-19 declined 16.1 percent. The overall national decrease was 21.9 percent, from 62.1 births for teens age 15-19 per 1000 females in 1991 to 48.5 in 2000. Missouri shows a larger decrease beginning with a higher birth rate for ages 15-19 (64.3) in 1991 and ending with nearly the same rate as the nation (48.6) in 2000 – a decrease of 24.4 percent. In addition, 2001 data showing a birth rate of 46.0 indicate that the decline is continuing. By age group, Missouri shows a 31.2 percent drop among 15-17 year old teens from 1991-2000 (38.8 in 1991 to 26.7 in 2000) with a continued decline to 23.4 in 2001. As with the nation, the decrease is less among the older teens: 19.5 percent – from 99.9 in 1991 to 80.4 in 2000 with a continuing decrease to 78.8 in 2001.

Pregnancies to females under age 15 constitute less than two percent of all teen pregnancies. From 1991 to 2001, the percent dropped from 2.5 to 1.8. The pregnancy rate among 10-14 year olds dropped during that period from 2.1 to 1.0 per 1,000– a decline of 52.4 percent. In terms of events, there was a drop from close to 400 pregnancies per year to a little over 200.

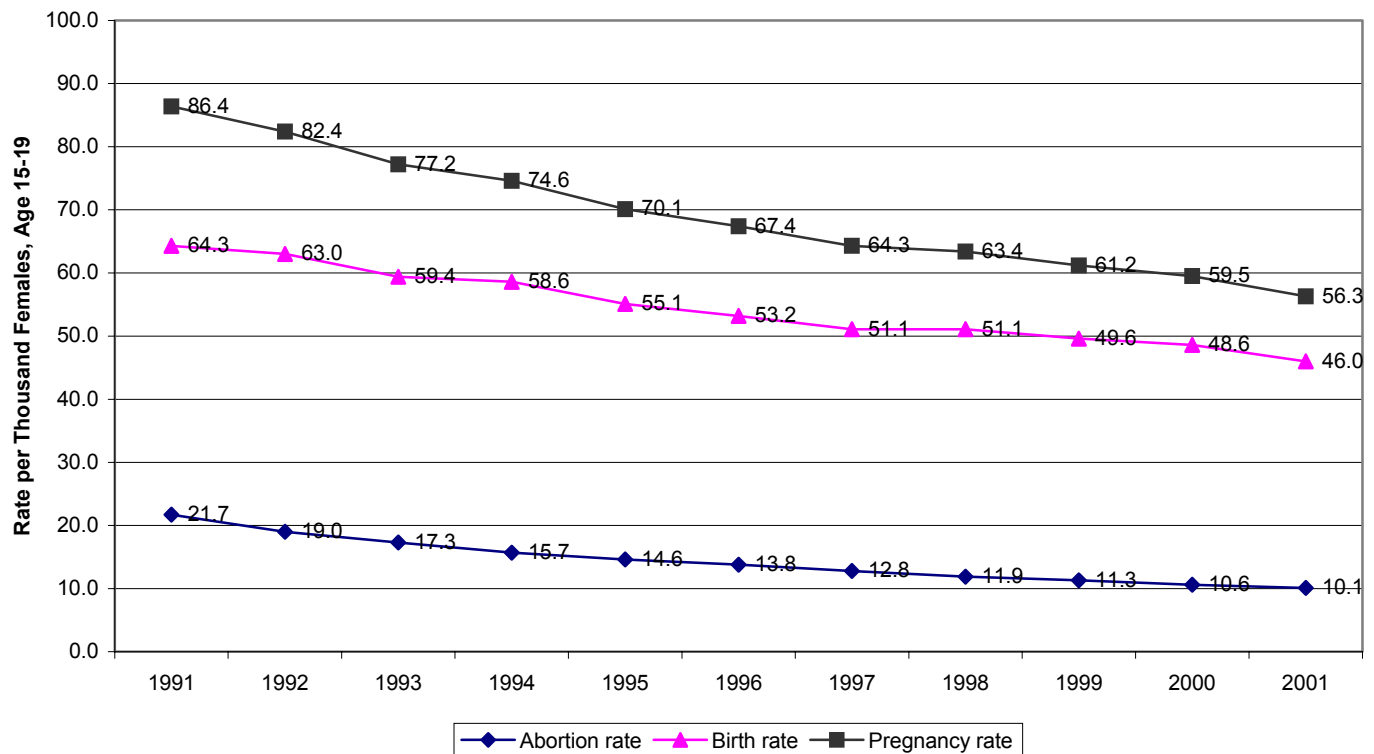
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**Table 1: Teen Abortions, Live Births and Pregnancies**  
**Missouri Residents**  
**Numbers and Rates**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>Population by Age Group, All Races</b>											
Females											
10-14	181,898	186,711	191,377	193,253	194,901	197,030	198,032	197,942	199,451	200,697	199,828
15-17	100,565	103,220	105,721	109,663	114,227	118,038	121,016	121,290	120,474	119,869	120,262
18-19	72,033	68,891	69,704	70,714	72,099	74,544	76,387	79,584	81,294	82,592	82,302
10-19	354,496	358,822	366,802	373,630	381,227	389,612	395,435	398,816	401,219	403,158	402,392
15-19	172,598	172,111	175,425	180,377	186,326	192,582	197,403	200,874	201,768	202,461	202,564
<b>Incidence by Age, All Races</b>											
Abortions											
10-14	179	161	178	144	161	124	121	89	90	87	83
15-17	1,379	1,271	1,173	1,118	1,066	1,064	961	882	781	677	669
18-19	2,365	2,003	1,868	1,717	1,647	1,603	1,562	1,518	1,494	1,474	1,379
10-19	3,923	3,435	3,219	2,979	2,874	2,791	2,644	2,489	2,365	2,238	2,131
15-19	3,744	3,274	3,041	2,835	2,713	2,667	2,523	2,400	2,275	2,151	2,048
Live Births											
10-14	203	206	237	224	215	181	166	137	143	134	118
15-17	3,902	3,941	3,849	3,863	3,695	3,635	3,558	3,479	3,243	3,199	2,820
18-19	7,193	6,895	6,571	6,707	6,577	6,618	6,536	6,791	6,760	6,638	6,488
10-19	11,298	11,042	10,657	10,794	10,487	10,434	10,260	10,407	10,146	9,971	9,426
15-19	11,095	10,836	10,420	10,570	10,272	10,253	10,094	10,270	10,003	9,837	9,308
Pregnancies											
10-14	384	371	417	376	380	310	291	228	235	225	205
15-17	5,314	5,239	5,055	5,004	4,798	4,725	4,544	4,391	4,044	3,897	3,509
18-19	9,607	8,945	8,494	8,461	8,263	8,255	8,141	8,350	8,300	8,157	7,903
10-19	15,305	14,555	13,966	13,841	13,441	13,290	12,976	12,969	12,579	12,279	11,617
15-19	14,921	14,184	13,549	13,465	13,061	12,980	12,685	12,741	12,344	12,054	11,412
<b>Rates by Age, All Races</b>											
Abortions											
10-14	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
15-17	13.7	12.3	11.1	10.2	9.3	9.0	7.9	7.3	6.5	5.6	5.6
18-19	32.8	29.1	26.8	24.3	22.8	21.5	20.4	19.1	18.4	17.8	16.8
10-19	22.7	20.0	18.3	16.5	15.4	14.5	13.4	12.4	11.7	11.1	10.5
15-19	21.7	19.0	17.3	15.7	14.6	13.8	12.8	11.9	11.3	10.6	10.1
Live Births											
10-14	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
15-17	38.8	38.2	36.4	35.2	32.3	30.8	29.4	28.7	26.9	26.7	23.4
18-19	99.9	100.1	94.3	94.8	91.2	88.8	85.6	85.3	83.2	80.4	78.8
10-19	65.5	64.2	60.7	59.8	56.3	54.2	52.0	51.8	50.3	49.2	46.5
15-19	64.3	63.0	59.4	58.6	55.1	53.2	51.1	51.1	49.6	48.6	46.0

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**Figure 1: Components of Missouri Teen Pregnancy Rates  
All Races, Ages 15-19: 1991-2001**



The decline in birth rates is greatest among blacks both in the nation and in Missouri. Table 2 shows Missouri resident teen birth rates, ages 15-19, by race and age group for 1991 through 2001. Among teens 15-19, the birth rate for Missouri blacks decreased more than the national black rate from 147.4 in 1991 to 94.6 in 2000 – a 35.8 percent decline – compared to the national decrease of 31.4

percent.<sup>5</sup> Data for 2001 show that the black rate continued to fall in Missouri, to 86.7 per 1,000 females age 15-19. The decline from 1991 through 2001 was 41.2 percent. The white 15-19 birth rate did not fall as much – in the state or in the nation. During the period from 1991 to 2000, the birth rate for white females age 15-19 declined only 16.8 percent in Missouri and

**Table2: Missouri Resident Teen Birth Rates by Race and Age  
1991-2001**

**White Teen Birth Rate, by Age Group**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
15-17	27.7	27.6	26.4	26.1	25.2	24.0	23.3	22.9	21.6	21.9	20.2
18-19	84.0	83.7	80.1	83.1	80.6	77.7	75.9	75.8	73.9	72.8	71.7
15-19	51.3	50.1	47.8	48.5	46.7	44.8	43.7	43.9	42.7	42.7	41.8

**Black Teen Birth Rate, by Age Group**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
15-17	108.1	105.2	99.9	91.8	77.5	73.2	67.4	65.4	58.9	60.0	52.2
18-19	204.3	208.6	190.7	172.5	163.1	161.0	145.3	145.5	141.4	148.4	140.4
15-19	147.4	145.5	135.1	122.7	109.9	106.5	97.1	97.3	91.7	94.6	86.7

Rates are per 1,000 female population for each age group.

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similarly only 16.9 in the U.S. However, the white 15-19 birth rate in Missouri did continue to fall in 2001, dropping to 41.8 from 42.7 in 2000. The percent decline from 1991 to 2001 was 18.5 percent. The Missouri birth rate for blacks 15-19, despite the decline, remained higher than the national rate (based on 2000 data).<sup>6</sup> As with the nation, the largest decrease in birth rates occurred among 15-17 year old blacks with a decline of 44.5 percent (51.7 percent for 1991-2001) in Missouri and 40.3 percent nationally. White teens aged 18-19 showed the smallest decline in birth rates dropping only 13.3 percent (14.6 percent 1999-2001). Nevertheless, births occur more frequently among black teens than among white teens. The black 15-17 birth rate is still more than double the white 15-17 year old rate and the black 18-19 birth rate is about double the white 18-19 rate.

It has previously been reported that the percent of teen births to unmarried females steadily increased during the 1990s, from 71.6% in 1991 to 79.6% in 1998.<sup>7</sup> This trend has continued, as 2001 data show that 81 percent of teen births are out-of-wedlock. Over 65 percent of teen pregnancies result in an out-of-wedlock birth. Recognizing that unmarried teen mothers and their babies are socially and economically vulnerable, use of state-sponsored support services by teen mothers is of interest.

Using data from an earlier report,<sup>8</sup> we can compare teen mother participation in Medicaid, WIC, and Food Stamps over the last decade to note any change in the utilization of state-sponsored support services by teen mothers. Table 3 compares teen mothers' participation in public programs during two different time periods: 1989-1991 and 1999-2001. As a percent of live births to teens under 20 years of age, total teen participation in Medicaid increased 20.7 percent, from 64.2 percent to 77.5 percent. WIC participation increased from 67.6 percent to 73.5 percent, an increase of only 8.7 percent. Participation in Food Stamps decreased 27.1 percent, from 32.5 percent to 23.7 percent. White and black subgroups of teen mothers show very similar patterns of program participation. The number of teens participating in the WIC and Food Stamp programs decreased due to the reduction of teen mothers. However the number of Medicaid teen mothers increased despite the reduction of teen births, because of an increase in the Medicaid participation rate.

Teen pregnancy is down among the under-20 population. Both births and abortions are declining in absolute numbers and rates. The biggest decreases are among younger teens and blacks. Despite the overall favorable trend toward decreasing pregnancies among teens, births to unmarried teen mothers constitute a larger

**Table 3: Participation in State Aide Programs Among Mothers Under Age 20 by Race  
Comparison of 1989-1991 Participation to 1999-2001 Participation**

Program	Teen Mothers Participating						
	1989 - 1991				1999 - 2001		
	White	Black	Total		White	Black	Total
Medicaid	13,578	7,829	21,596		16,564	5,921	22,905
WIC	14,555	8,008	22,741		15,417	5,911	21,713
Food Stamps	6,612	4,220	10,926		4,297	2,605	7,011
Total	22,709	10,631	33,658		21,398	7,582	29,543

Program	Percentage of Teen Mothers Participating						
	1989 - 1991				1999 - 2001		
	White	Black	Total		White	Black	Total
Medicaid	59.8	73.6	64.2		77.4	78.1	77.5
WIC	64.1	75.3	67.6		72.0	78.0	73.5
Food Stamps	29.1	39.7	32.5		20.1	34.4	23.7

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proportion of teen pregnancies than in the past (81 percent of the births and 65.8 percent of all pregnancies - MICA). Over 7,600 infants are born each year in Missouri to unmarried females under the age of 20.

In summary:

- Teen pregnancy and birth rates are declining.
- Missouri shows a larger decrease than the U.S.
- The biggest decrease is among 15-17 year old blacks even though rates are still double that for whites.
- The percent of teen mothers utilizing Medicaid and WIC has increased to 77.5 percent and 73.5 percent, respectively.
- The percent participating in Food Stamps has decreased to 23.7 percent.
- Over 7,600 births occur each year to unmarried females under the age of 20 in Missouri.
- The percent of teen births to unmarried females is increasing.

#### Footnotes and References:

<sup>1</sup> "Missouri Teen Pregnancies," Missouri Monthly Vital Statistics, State Center for Health Statistics, August 1992.

<sup>2</sup> "Teen Pregnancies in Missouri," Missouri Monthly Vital Statistics, State Center for Health Statistics, July 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Ventura SJ, Mathews TJ, Hamilton BE. "Births to Teenagers in the United States, 1940-2000." National Vital Statistics Reports: Vol. 49 No. 10. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Ventura SJ, Mathews TJ, Hamilton BE. "Teen Births in the United States: State Trends, 1991-2000, an Update." National Vital Statistics Reports: Vol. 50 No. 9. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 2002.

<sup>5</sup> Ventura et al. "Births to Teenagers in the United States, 1940-2000."

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> "Teen Pregnancies in Missouri," 1999.

<sup>8</sup> "Missouri Teen Pregnancies," 1992.

## Provisional Vital Statistics for March 2002

**Live births** decreased in March as 5,705 Missouri babies were born compared with 6,342 one year earlier. Cumulative births for the 3- and 12- month periods ending with March also show decreases. For the first quarter of the year, births decreased by nearly 11 percent.

**Deaths** increased in March as 5,382 Missourians died compared with 5,042 in March 2001. However, cumulative deaths for the 3- and 12- month periods ending with March both show decreases.

The **Natural increase** in March was 323 (5,705 births minus 5,382 deaths). The natural increase

was lower in 2002 than 2001 for all three time periods shown below.

**Marriages** and **Dissolutions of marriage** both decreased for all three periods shown below. The marriage to divorces ratio increased from 1.76 to 1.78 for the 12 months ending with March.

**Infant deaths** increased slightly in March as 62 Missouri infants died compared with 58 one year earlier. For the 12 months ending with March, the infant death rate increased from 7.4 to 7.9 per 1,000 live births.

### PROVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR MARCH 2002

<u>Item</u>	<u>MARCH</u>				<u>Jan.-Mar. cumulative</u>				<u>12 months ending with March</u>				
	<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
<b>Live Births</b> .....	6,342	5,705	14.2	11.9	19,616	17,474	14.5	12.5	77,317	73,387	13.8	13.8	13.0
<b>Deaths</b> .....	5,042	5,382	11.3	11.2	15,945	14,992	11.7	10.7	54,407	53,374	9.9	9.7	9.5
<b>Natural increase</b> ....	1,300	323	2.9	0.7	3,671	2,482	2.7	1.8	22,910	20,013	3.9	4.1	3.5
<b>Marriages</b> .....	2,689	2,575	6.0	5.4	7,585	6,934	5.6	5.0	43,718	43,365	8.1	7.8	7.7
<b>Dissolutions</b> .....	2,289	2,159	5.1	4.5	6,080	5,544	4.5	4.0	24,905	24,357	4.5	4.4	4.3
<b>Infant deaths</b> .....	58	62	9.1	10.9	180	155	9.2	8.9	570	579	7.9	7.4	7.9
<b>Population base</b> ..... (in thousands)	...	...	5,630	5,665	...	...	5,630	5,665	...	...	5,559	5,604	5,639

\* Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births. Rates are adjusted to account for varying lengths of monthly reporting periods.

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